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GARSTANG
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL
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AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1959

" HERALD "

PRESTON

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR J. PRESTON, J.P.

Public Health Committee:

THE WHOLE OF THE MEMBERS OF
THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR J. PRESTON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. THORNTON

Clerk of the Council:

H. BOND, A.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time):

ANDREW B. TAYLOR, M.B., Ch.B.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. SMITHSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

F. C. WESTON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

J. H. COOKSON, C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

(Appointed 1-3-59)

Public Health Inspector's Assistant:

J. B. COOK

(Retired 31-7-59)

Clerk:

MISS S. HAMPSON

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1959

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Garstang Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my nineteenth Annual Report in respect of the year 1959, together with the vital statistics relating thereto.

There has not been any serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year and the health of the inhabitants of the district has been satisfactory.

A slight increase on the previous year in the number of births and a decrease in the deaths were recorded. Approximately seventy per cent of the deaths were of persons in the age group of 65 years and over. It will also be seen that there is a decrease in the number of deaths from cancer.

The number of cases of infectious disease showed a marked increase on the previous year. This was due to an outbreak of measles, but fortunately without any serious complications. No case of Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria was notified during the year and 918 children were immunised against Poliomyelitis.

An appreciable amount of your Inspectors' time was occupied in the sampling of milk for *Brucella Abortus*, and although only a few cases of Undulant Fever were reported during the year, the prevalence of this disease cannot be assessed until it is included in the list of notifiable diseases.

Although no council houses were built during the year, it is worthy of note that since 1945, 536 houses have been erected by the Council. At the end of the year sixteen one-bedroom bungalows for elderly persons, together with a Warden's house, Communal room and flat were in course of erection. I am confident that this project will be much appreciated by those who will be fortunate enough to enjoy the facilities and I hope the Council will, in the near future, seriously consider the provision of this type of accommodation in other parishes of the District.

With the introduction of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, it is hoped that owners of dwelling houses, whether owner/occupied or tenanted, will take advantage of the Standard Grants which are now available for the provision of baths, hot water, water closets, etc.

I would like to express my thanks to the Chief Public Health Inspector and the staff of the Health Department, and also to the Clerk of the Council, for their co-operation and assistance during the year.

I remain, Yours faithfully.

ANDREW B. TAYLOR.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Position ... Latitude 53° 54" North. Longitude 2° 47" West.
Elevation above sea level ... 0 feet to 1,675 feet.

Geological formation... Eastern Highlands—Millstone grit.
Western Lowlands—Glacial clay on
triassic sandstone with patches of
alluvium.

Chief Industries carried
on in the Area ... Mainly Agriculture and Poultry; Egg
Packing and Poultry Dressing;
Milk Processing and Cheese Making;
Textile Manufacturing; Paper Making
and Pre-Cast Products. A number of
men are employed in the building trades,
and a number of residents are employed
in the neighbouring towns.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	...	57,491
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	12,706
Registrar-General's Estimated mid-year Home						
					Population, 1959	13,650
Density of population per Acre	...	...	...	...	...	·24
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	...	3,643
Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1959						
according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	4,254
Average number of persons per house	...	...	...	...	...	3·2
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£158,543
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£604

VITAL STATISTICS

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Live	}	Legitimate	...	...	210	108	102
Births		Illegitimate	...	...	5	4	1
					<hr/> 215	<hr/> 112	<hr/> 103
Still Births	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
Deaths	...	...	...	...	161	81	80

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3	3	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					<hr/> 3	<hr/> 3	<hr/> —

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.

					<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	—
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
					—	—	—
					1	1	—
					—	—	—

	1959	1958	England & Wales
Live Births:			
Number	215	208	—
Rate per 1,000 population (Crude 15.8)	17.0*	16.6*	16.5
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births	2.3	5.0	5.1
Stillbirths:			
Number	3	6	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births...	13.8	28	20.7
Total Live and Still Births	218	214	—
Deaths:			
Number	161	187	—
Rate per 1,000 population (Crude 11.8)...	11.9*	14.0*	11.6
Infant Deaths (under one year)	3	3	—
Infant Mortality Rates:			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	14	14.4	22.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	14.3	10	—
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	100	—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)...	4.7	9.6	15.8
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	0	4.8	13.6
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths)	13.8	38.8	34.2
Maternal Mortality (including abortion):			
Number of Deaths	0	0	—
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births...	—	—	0.38
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0.15	0.077
Cancer	1.83	2.74	2.14

* Adjusted 1959 { live birth rate (comparability factor 1.08) = 17.0 per 1,000
death rate (comparability factor 1.01) = 11.9 per 1,000

Causes of Death

						Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...			4	3	7
" " lung, brochus	...	...	...			2	0	2
" " breast	...	...	...			0	3	3
" " uterus	...	...	...			0	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...				3	7	10
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...			0	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...			9	18	27
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...			22	8	30
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...			1	1	2
Other heart diseases	...	...	...			11	16	27
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...			0	5	5
Influenza	...	...	...			2	2	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...			4	1	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...			3	0	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...				1	0	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...			1	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...			0	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...			1	0	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	...			1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...				6	11	17
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...			3	0	3
All other accidents	...	...	...			4	0	4
Suicide	...	...	...			3	1	4
						81	80	161

Deaths — Age Groups

Under 1 year	...	...	...	3
1— 2	„	...	...	1
3— 4	„	...	...	—
5— 9	„	...	...	—
10—14	„	...	...	4
15—24	„	...	...	1
25—44	„	...	...	4
45—64	„	...	...	32
65—74	„	...	...	44
Over 75	„	...	...	72
Total	...			161

Cancer

There were 25 deaths from malignant neoplasms of which 2 were due to cancer of the lung and bronchus.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1959.

Total Cases Notified and Ages.

Disease	Total No. of Cases	Under 1	1--	2--	3--	4--	5--	10--	15--	25--	45--	65 and over	Cases removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever ...	20	...	...	...	4	4	9	3	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	6	...	...	1	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	14	...	...	...	1	...	1	..	...	2	6	4	...
Measles...	325	4	20	34	34	40	168	23	2	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	365	4	20	35	39	45	182	26	2	2	6	4	...

TUBERCULOSIS — 1959

Age Groups	Notifications				Deaths	
	New Cases		Inward Transfers		Respiratory	Non-Respiratory
	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory	Respiratory	Non-Respiratory		
0— 4	1					
5— 9						
10—14						
15—19						
20—24						
25—34	1					
35—44	1					
45—54						
55—64						
65 and over			1			
Total	3	—	1	—	—	—

The following table gives a summary of known cases of tuberculosis within the rural district at 31st December, 1959.

	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory ...	26	8	34
Non-Respiratory ...	2	5	7
	—	—	—
Total ...	28	13	41
	—	—	—

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The National Health Service Scheme was introduced eleven years ago and it would appear that it is functioning very satisfactorily within the area.

The rural district is under the administration of two Divisions of the County Council, namely:—

Health Division 3: Parishes of:—

Hambleton	Out Rawcliffe Stalmine	Pilling
-----------	---------------------------	---------

Health Division 4: Parishes of:—

Barnacre-with-Bonds	Bilsborrow	Bleasdale
Cabus	Catterall	Claughton
Forton	Garstang	Great Eccleston
Inskip-with-Sowerby	Kirkland	Myerscough
Nateby	Nether Wyresdale Winmarleigh	Upper Rawcliffe-with- Tarnacre

Health Services

The general health services, including ante-natal, midwifery, School Clinics, health visiting, home helps, etc., are administered by the County Council and appear satisfactory.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Venereal Disease Treatment Centres are under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board.

Hospital Accommodation.

There are no hospitals in the area. Cases are sent to Preston, Lancaster, Blackpool, etc.

The district is provided with hospital accommodation for smallpox at Bury and for Infectious diseases at Preston, Blackpool and Lancaster.

Ambulance Service.

This service is also under the control of the Lancashire County Council, with headquarters at Broughton, near Preston, and ambulance stations at Thornton, Fleetwood and Lancaster.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, S.47.

Number of applications made during the year	...	...	Nil
Number of Orders made	...	...	Nil

Laboratory Facilities.

Swabs, specimens of sputum, etc., and samples of milk, ice-cream, water, and other foods for bacteriological and biological examination are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Preston.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1959

COUNCIL OFFICES,
GARSTANG.

*To the Chairman and members of the
Garstang Rural District Council*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report of the sanitary circumstances of your District for the year 1959.

Water Supply

The District is well supplied from the Fylde Water Board. Approximately 93·7 per cent of the dwelling houses (3,973) have an internal supply from this source which is upland surface water of excellent quality. The supply is regularly tested by the Board and the department. The Board, during 1959, laid nearly 3 miles of new mains.

Eleven houses receive water from the Manchester Corporation, Thirlmere supply, and the remainder of the houses derive their source of supply from wells and springs.

The total number of houses with an internal piped water supply, from all sources is 4,190 (98·5%).

Fifteen houses, previously supplied from private sources, were connected to the Board's mains.

Due to the exceptionally dry summer, a limited number of occupiers of premises deriving their water from private sources experienced a temporary shortage.

One hundred and seven samples of water were obtained from private supplies and submitted for bacteriological examination with the following results as compared with the Ministry of Health's recommended standards for non-chlorinated piped supplies:—

Bacteriological:—

Satisfactory 57.

Unsatisfactory 50.

PARISH	No. of Houses, etc.	FYLDE		TH.		PRIVATE SUPPLIES							CARAVAN SITES		SCHOOLS				
						Burdock			Oak		Cl.		Others						
						In	Out	C.	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	C.				
Barnacre-with-Bonds ...	391	332	—	2	17	—	2	1	—	—	34	3	—	—	3	1			
Billsborrow ...	98	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	1	—			
Bleasdale...	55	1	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	32	8	—	—	—	1			
Cabus ...	250	250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—			
Catterall...	180	179	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—			
Claughton ...	126	71	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	10	7	—	—	—	1			
Forton ...	275	262	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	—	—	1	—			
Garstang...	643	643	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—			
Great Eccleston...	244	243	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—			
Hambleton ...	250	249	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—			
Inskip-with-Sowerby ...	153	152	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—			
Kirkland...	92	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—			
Myerscough ...	191	188	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—			
Nateby ...	75	75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—			
Nether Wyresdale ...	168	102	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	5	4	1	1	—			
Out Rawcliffe ...	169	168	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—			
Pilling ...	442	430	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	2	2	—			
Stalmine...	224	221	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	1	—			
Upper Rawcliffe-with-Tarnacre	143	143	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—			
Winmarleigh ...	85	82	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—			
TOTAL ...	4,254	3,973	4	11	17	—	2	15	38	136	54	4	23	1	19	3			

KEY :

TH.—Thirlmere supply.
F. —Fylde supply.

OAK.—Oakencloough supply.
P. —Private supply.

CL.—Claughton supply.
C.—Carried.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council undertake the removal of domestic refuse in the twenty parishes.

Collection of household refuse and salvage was carried out by three side-loading vehicles, manned by nine loaders, inclusive of drivers.

Refuse was disposed of in farm "pits" situated in various parts of the district.

Every endeavour is made with the limited number of vehicles, men, and covering material, to dispose of the refuse with as little nuisance as possible.

Another 12 cubic yard vehicle was acquired in December and will be put into service on the 1st January, 1960. This should materially assist in the reduction of the periods of collection.

The amount realised from the sale of salvage was £294.

Sewerage and Drainage.

No major works or extensions were carried out during the year, although the Council have sewerage schemes in hand for the parishes of Myerscough, Bilsborrow, Hambleton, Stalmine and Pilling.

Modern disposal works, situate at Churchtown, serve Garstang and parts of the parishes of Barnacre-with-Bonds, Cabus, Catterall, Churchtown and Claughton.

In Great Eccleston all the sewers discharge, without treatment, in the tidal waters of the River Wyre.

Other treatment plants are situated in Calder Vale, and the Kenlis Arms area (Barnacre-with-Bonds), Pilling, Scorton (Nether Wyresdale), and at Forton.

Small treatment works are provided for Council estates in the various parishes.

The majority of the dwelling houses where sewers are not available are provided with septic tanks.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (AT END OF 1959)

Number of middens	57	Number of fresh water closets ..	4,531
Number of closets attached thereto	60	Number of trough closets ..	—
Number of dry ashpits ((excluding middens)	—	Number of waste water closets ..	—
Number of pail closets	405	Number of moveable dustbins ..	4,096

CONVERSIONS DURING THE YEAR

Privies to fresh water closets ..	4	Pails to fresh water closets ..	16
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Public Conveniences.

Public Conveniences are provided in Garstang, Great Eccleston, Pilling and Scorton.

Sanitary Inspections

Animal Feeding	18
Atmospheric Pollution	8
Bakehouses	28
Butchers' Shops	53
Cafes	53
Dairies	11
Disinfections	15
Drains and Sewers	125
Dust Bins	28
Factories	92
Fire Escape Certificates	18
Fish Friers	19
Food preparation premises	35
Food Shops	54
Hawkers	34
Houses (P.H.A. and Hsg. Acts)	272
Housing (Improvement Grants)	205
Houses (Council)	30
Houses, applications for Council	237
Houses, Certificates of disrepair	16
Ice-cream premises	80
Infestations	14
Infectious diseases	26
Knacker's Yard	28
Market	42
Milk Supplies	55
Moveable Dwellings	174
Manure, Accumulation of	36
National Assistance Act	9
Petroleum Regulations	80
Piggeries	36
Poultry Packers	26
Public Cleansing and Salvage	302
Public Conveniences	123
Public Houses	31
River Pollution	31
Rodent Control	15
Sampling	266
Schools	37
School Kitchens	13
Shops and Offices	72
Sanitary Accommodation:—	
Agricultural Act, 1956	74
Conversions	45
Septic Tanks	48
Slaughterhouses	1174
Water supplies	133
Various	75
Total Visits	4396

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

Number of slaughterhouses licensed	9
Number of licences issued to slaughtermen during 1959 ...	41

Summary of Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

Figures in () are those for 1958

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	722 (831)	3 (17)	3 (4)	3699 (3579)	5782 (4947)
Number inspected	722 (831)	3 (17)	3 (4)	3699 (3579)	5782 (4947)
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcases condemned	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (1)	9 (8)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	257 (150)	0 (2)	0 (2)	166 (87)	943 (363)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	35.6 (18.05)	0 (11.76)	0 (50.00)	4.6 (2.46)	16.3 (7.5)
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (0)
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	22 (23)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	163 (75)
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	3.0 (2.77)	0 (5.88)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2.9 (1.52)

Number of carcases of which some part or organ was found to be affected with cysticercus bovis 6(3)

A Government contribution of £44 10s. 5d. was received towards the cost of meat inspection for 1958/59.

Food Premises

Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at end of year:—

General grocers and provision dealers	65
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	7
Fishmongers	1
Meat shops, (butchers, purveyors of cooked and processed meats, etc.)	8
Bakers and/or confectioners	3
Fried Fish shops	5
Shops, selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	8
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes snack bars	69
Others—School meals/kitchens, etc.	21

Number of food premises, by type, registered under S.16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under local Acts:—

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No. registered</i>	<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Ice Cream Manufacture and Sale	56	80
Fish Friers	5	19
Sausages, Potted and preserved Food — Manufacture	10	35

Unsound Food.

A total of 6 tons 6cwt 2qrs. 4lbs recorded as under.

From Slaughterhouses:—

	T.	C.	Qrs.	lbs.
Tubercular meat	1	18	0	27
Non-Tubercular meat	3	10	1	14

Special examination of food stocks:—

Type	Quantity examined	Quantity condemned
Pre-packed foods	850 lbs.	850 lbs.
Dressed Chickens	1088 lbs.	1088 lbs.
Butchers Meat	69 lbs.	69 lbs.

All condemned meat from slaughterhouses is stained green and then either sent to the local Knacker's Yard or to a Processor. Unsound tinned foods are buried at the tip.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of distributors registered by the local authority and operating from:—

(a) Dairies in the district	2
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	6
(c) Premises outside the district	5

Number of dealers' licences issued during 1959—

Tuberculin Tested milk	24
Pasteurised milk	18
Sterilised milk	17

Regular sampling of all supplies is carried out for biological and bacteriological examination and the following show the results of the samples taken:

Raw Milk:

	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>No. Positive</i>	<i>No. Negative</i>
Tuberculosis	68	0	68
	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>
Bacteriological			
Methylene Blue	27	25	2
	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>No. Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. Unsatisfactory</i>

Heat Treated Milk:

Phosphatase Test	7	7	—
Methylene Blue Test	7	7	—
Turbidity Test	1	1	—

Br. Abortus (Undulant Fever)

One hundred and eighty-four milk samples were also submitted for Br. Abortus and as a result 9 cows were found to be affected. The milk from these cows was diverted from the raw liquid market without the necessity of serving notices under the Milk and Dairies Regulations.

Tuberculosis:

Result of Ministry investigations within the district during the year arising from notifications by any local authority :

Number of herds examined by veterinary inspectors	...	—
„ „ cases where animals seized under Tuberculosis Order, 1938	... ..	—
„ „ animals seized	... ..	—
„ „ cases reported negative where animals had been sold prior to investigation	... ..	—
„ „ cases reported negative, no animals seized	...	—

One pasteurising plant is licensed by the County Council.

Ice Cream.

During the year, 48 samples of Ice Cream were taken. The following is a table showing the respective grading:—

			<i>Made Out of the District</i>		<i>Made Within the District</i>
Grade 1	...	...	32	...	10
2	...	...	3	...	1
3	...	...	0	...	0
4	...	...	1	...	1
			—	...	—
			36	...	12
			—	...	—

Three Ice Lollie samples were satisfactory.

Markets.

There is one market which is held weekly in Garstang. This is under the control of the Garstang Town Trust and is regularly inspected.

Offensive Trades.

There is a Knacker's Yard situate in the parish of Catterall which serves a useful purpose for a very wide area. The premises are regularly inspected and the business appears to be well conducted.

Smoke Abatement.

At two factories the solid fuel boilers were replaced with oil burning plants.

Moveable Dwellings.

Number of licensed caravan sites—24, including 3 extensions during the year.

Number of licences issued during 1959 for individual caravans 22.

Number of caravans stationed in the district, August, 1959—1,030. Approximate number of caravanners at the height of the season, 2,060.

Number of caravans used for permanent habitation—305.

The licensed caravan sites, with one exception, have public water supplies and the majority of the sites are provided with fresh-water closets to septic tanks. The sites are generally well conducted and few complaints received.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no public baths within the area, although some bathing takes place in favourable weather in certain parts of the rivers Wyre and Brock.

On one caravan site a swimming pool has been provided for the benefit of the caravanners. The water is pumped from a nearby well and receives no treatment, but is changed regularly.

Shops and Offices.

Seventy-two inspections were carried out.

The majority of the shops in the area are family concerns, employing few or no assistants.

Schools.

There are now twenty-two schools in the rural district.

Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board to 19 of the schools—at Bleasdale, Calder Vale and Claughton the supplies are from private sources which are sampled regularly.

With the exception of the Bleasdale School (which is still served with privies) all the others are provided with fresh water closets.

There are two school kitchens in the area providing mid-day meals for the scholars at several of the schools. Separate kitchens have also been provided at other schools. The standard of these premises is very high.

Housing.

Number of dwelling houses and flats erected during the year:

Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	94
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(ii) By other Local Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	...	94

The Council's housing register revealed at the 31st December, 1959, that there were 164 outstanding applications for Council houses. These were made up as follows:—

- 34 from persons living in rooms.
- 29 from persons living in moveable dwellings.
- 98 from tenants of houses.
- 3 from single persons.

The public health department is responsible to the House Letting Committee for all lists of applications for council houses and before the submission of these lists investigations are made into each case.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year—

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	107
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	272
(2) Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:—	
(a) Number found during year	4
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year...	24
(3) Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	56

2. Housing Act, 1957. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—

	No. of Houses	Persons Displaced
(1) Houses demolished or closed during the year		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	7	1
(ii) Closed	3	14
(iii) Parts of buildings closed	—	—
(2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.		
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers		45

3. Housing Act, 1957—Overcrowding:

At the end of 1959, there were no cases of statutory overcrowding in the housing register, although it was known that there was a limited number of cases where the bedroom accommodation was insufficient for the needs of the families.

Special consideration was given by the Council in the rehousing of overcrowded families.

4. Improvement Grants.

	No.	No. of dwelling houses affected
(i) Number of schemes submitted by private individuals to local authority	18	18
(ii) Number of schemes approved ...	16	16
(iii) Number of schemes completed ...	20	20
Total amount of grants paid in connection with the aforesaid 20 schemes, £2,731.		

5. Standard Grants.

	No. of schemes	No. of dwellings affected
(i) Number submitted to local authority	3	3
(ii) Approved by local authority ...	2	2
(iii) Works completed ...	1	1
Amount of grant paid, £108 5s. 0d.		

6. Rent Act, 1957

(a) Applications for Certificates of Disrepair:

(1) Number of applications received	2
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	1
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates, in respect of some but not all defects ...	1
In respect of all defects ...	—
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under par. 5 of the 1st Schedule ...	—
(b) Applications for Cancellation of Certificates ...	—

Factories.

1.—Inspection of Factories.

No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
109	92	12	Nil

Outworkers.

Number on register ...	One
Type of work—basket making.	

Defects Found in Factories.

Particulars	Defects		Referred		Prosecu-
	Found	Remedied	by H.M. Inspector	tions	
Want of cleanliness ...	1	1	—	—	
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—	
Inadequate ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	
Ineffective drainage of floors...	—	—	—	—	
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) insufficient ...	5	3	—	—	
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	7	6	1	—	
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	
Other offences ...	—	—	—	—	

Verminous Persons and Premises.

A small number of infestations (ants, cockroaches, wasps, etc.) were eradicated by proprietary insecticides during the year. In addition, two caravans and bedding were disinfested for scabies.

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out by means of formalin fumigators and fifteen rooms and 24 books were treated by this method during the year.

Rodent Control.

The Council engage one whole-time rodent operative to carry out the functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

During the year, 4,319 inspections were carried out and 286 properties treated for rats and mice.

After test baiting, with negative results, a proportion of the manholes on the Council's sewers, it was not found necessary to carry out, during 1959, any further treatment on the sewers.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts

Regular inspections of premises where petroleum spirit is stored have been carried out.

On the recommendation of the Home Office, the testing of those petrol tanks installed over 20 years ago, was completed. As a result, three tanks were found to be faulty and are now disused.

Conclusion.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, other chief officials, and all members of my staff for their valued assistance, and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for all their support during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. SMITHSON, Chief Public Health Inspector.

